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Conference News and Announcements



Midway Congregational UCC, but **First Congregational UCC, Savannah, Pilgrim Congregational UCC, Chattanooga, First Congregational UCC, Atlanta, and Central Congregational UCC, Atlanta.** The feedback we received at these meetings will be forwarded to the Board of Directors at their meeting on May 15th. The Board will then determine the next step in our deliberations, and whether to move forward with a recommendation to the Annual Meeting of the Conference.

Conference Annual Meeting Updates:

We will have the registration materials for the Annual Meeting posted on our web site soon. As our plans develop, we are pleased to announce that **Donna Allen** professor of homiletics at Lancaster Theological Seminary, will be the preacher at the Theology Among the People (TAP) Commencement on Thursday evening, June 11th. In addition to having **Steve Sterner, Acting Executive Minister of Local Church Ministries of the United Church of Christ and active in Peace Congregational UCC, Clemson, SC**, as our preacher on Friday evening, June 12th, will be welcoming the choir of **Victory Church, Stone Mountain.** The Victory Choir has been with us in the past, and received an enthusiastic reception. We have word that we will be joined at our Annual Meeting by **Alice Hunt, the newly installed president of Chicago Theological Seminary, Ava Blackwell, Director of Admissions at Lancaster Theological Seminary, Phyllis Byrd, a Global Ministries Partnership missionary in Kenya, and Mary Seymour of the Cornerstone Fund, a ministry of Local Church Ministries.** We will be looking for people to volunteer from the Atlanta area UCC churches, who are serving as our hosts. If you would like to help, contact Gerri gghudson@secucc.org, and she will direct you to the volunteer coordinator for your congregation.

Interested in the current financial status and challenges of the Southeast Conference? We are posting comments and reflections following the end of each quarter of the year. You can view these and articles at: <http://www.secucc.org/about/financial.php>.

We received a letter of **thanks** from the **Pension Boards of the UCC for the \$11,420** that they received from the congregations of the Southeast Conference to the Christmas Fund which supports the Board for Ministerial Assistance. If you are interested in how those funds are used, you can go to www.christmasfund.org.

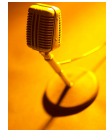
Georgia South Carolina Association, UCC, Annual Meeting April 4, 2009

Theme: "Ministry For Such a Time as This"



The Annual Meeting of the Georgia-South Carolina Association was held on April 4th. Forty people were present for the meeting and ecclesiastical council following. It was graciously hosted by **Garden of Grace UCC in Columbia, SC**, which provided hospitality, food, and inspiring worship.

Keynoting for the event was **Associate Conference Minister Kathy Clark** who spoke



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Theology Among the People



Check out our Lay Theology Program called "TAP", Theology Among the People. [Click here.](#)



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about the sea change in church life in the last four decades and the call to reshape the formation of ministers to serve this changed church in new and creative ways. She noted our identity as a Conference dramatically reshaped by the call cultivates congregations which demonstrate a spirit of radical hospitality, justice and peace. The Ministry Issues Pronouncement which was passed four years ago by General Synod, and which calls for changes to the Constitution and Bylaws of the UCC at this Synod in 2009 is paving a path to the preparation for ministers for the emerging church. A foundational assumption of the Pronouncement is that all are called to ministry by virtue of our baptism. Some are set apart by ordination or licensing to particular ministries on behalf of the church. The Pronouncement provides for the assessment of people for ministry in four primary areas: spiritual formation, UCC identity, personal and professional formation, and knowledge and skills for ministry. She noted that the Southeast Conference will be a pioneer in living into this new paradigm.

Ben Rose preached his ordination sermon at the Ecclesiastical Council using John 14 as his text. He called us to be witnesses to the Good News, and reminded us that this will lead us into confrontation with worldly ways. He was approved unanimously for ordination.

During the business meeting we recognized **Marvin Morgan**, member and Associate Minister of **First Congregational UCC, Atlanta**, as the Moderator of the upcoming General Synod. We further celebrated the election of the following people to the Church and Ministry Committee: **Beth Herndon (Central Congregational UCC, Atlanta)**, **Ronnie Galvin (First Congregational UCC, Atlanta)**, **Jetta Washington and Carole Moss (Victory Church, Stone Mountain)**, **Gerooge Drumbor (Circular Congregational Charleston)**, **Tommy Hill (Evergreen Congregational UCC, Beachton, GA)**.

The worship service, led by **Andy Sidden**, pastor of **Grace of Grace UCC**, was a call to us to grow God's disciples and tend God's garden, and remain courageous in the face of those who object.

**Alabama-Tennessee Association, UCC
Annual Meeting
April 24-25, 2009
Theme: "For Such a Time as This"**



The Alabama-Tennessee Association Annual Meeting held April 24, 25, was hosted by the Holy Trinity Community UCC in Nashville. Approximately 100 people were a part of the event which was notable for the warm hospitality of our hosts, the dynamic music of the Holy Trinity Choir, and the excellent preaching of **Associate Conference Minister Kathy Clark**, who stepped in to keynote and preach at the last minute when Marti Baumer of Eden Theological Seminary the scheduled keynote was unable to come. Associate Conference Minister

Kathy Clark lifted up the theme of ministry as she had at the Georgia-South Carolina Association Annual Meeting. She added that the Ministry Issues Pronouncement was not the "dumbing down of ministry" but was a refocusing on the preparation of ministry to equip the ministries of the church and an invitation to a candidate into a process of discernment around their gifts for ministry. Ministry Issues stresses that learning for ministry is a lifelong undertaking.

At the business meeting of the Association, **Don Clark**, a member of **Pleasant Hill Community Church UCC, TN** was elected moderator to succeed **Nancy Sales**, a member of **First Congregational Christian UCC, Birmingham**. **Dorinda Broadnax** of **Community Congregational UCC, Montgomery** was elected vice-moderator, and **Marilyn Jones** of **First Congregational Christian UCC, Birmingham**, elected Secretary. The Association also passed **two resolutions**, the first urging **action on climate change**, and the second **opposing the use of nuclear power to solve America's energy problems**.

Conference Minister Tim Downs reported that while this was a challenging season for all financially, Our Church's Wider Mission (Basic Support) for 2008 was up, and that giving so far this year has been strong. He noted that the Southeast Conference is looked to as a leader in many settings of the United Church of Christ especially in areas of new church development, congregational affiliation, and ministry formation. He thanked the Association for their generous support of the conference and its ministries.

Many are aware that the **Southeast Conference, UCC** has been in a vital relationship with our ecumenical partners in the **Formula of Agreement**, the Southeastern Synod of the ELCA and the Presbytery of Greater Atlanta, PCUSA. Over the years we have been grateful for the generosity of our ecumenical colleagues in sharing the Resource Connection with us as an ecumenical resource center for all of our congregations helping us with volunteers at General Synod in 2005, and in many other ways. We are invited to an opportunity to return some of the gracious support we have received. The Presbytery of Great Atlanta is hosting a national gathering of the PCUSA in Atlanta, a time of renewal and celebration for the denomination. They have asked us whether we could provide **volunteers to stuff registration packets on Tuesday, June 9th**. The work will be done at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in Atlanta, and they have a need for 20 people. For more information, contact Tim Downs at tdowns@secucc.org, and he will get you what you need to know. The Southeast Conference was proud to host a meeting of all the new church developments in the greater Atlanta area of the PCUSA, the ELCA and the UCC. This was a time of sharing and exploring the ways we can support one another in the important ministries we all have.



The Conference was proud to host a meeting of all the Conference staff across the UCC who are engaged in new church development in Nashville March 30 through April 1st. The program was an overview of key issues around new church development presented by Ed Stetzer, a Southern Baptist new church developer. His address was one of guiding churches to become missional and outreaching. **Associate Conference Minister Cameron Trimble** organized the event.

Posted on May 6, 2009

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